

new sense of urgency to change must be instilled.

The Raise the Wage Act Would:

Lift pay for tens of millions of workers and reverse decades of growing pay inequality;

Favor all low wage workers, only 10 percent of which being teenagers and restaurant workers;

Be particularly significant for workers of color, as 38 percent of African Americans and 33 percent of Latinos would see a wage increase;

Divert reliance on safety-net programs, which reduces burden on the taxpayer;

Raise wages for jobs considered to be middle class, including nearly one third of manufacturing workers, one fifth of construction workers, one sixth of educators, and one fourth of health care workers

It is critical that you vote in favor the Raise the Wage Act as it comes to the floor this week and reject any Motions to Recommit. This legislation would provide numerous benefits to the working people of America, which underscores the importance of passing the bill as written. With wage stagnation surpassing record levels, voting yes on the Raise the Wage Act will provide long overdue relief to those who work but struggle to make ends meet. Please vote yes to raise the wage and improve the lives of millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

DON KUSLER,
*National Director,
Americans for Democratic Action.*

NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION
July 15, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA), I am writing to express our strong support for, and to urge you to vote in favor of, passage of the Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 582). In order to gain passage of the strongest bill possible, we ask that you oppose any motion to recommit and any amendment that would weaken this bill when the bill is brought to a vote on the House floor.

NELA advances workers' rights and serves lawyers who advocate for equality and justice in the American workplace. With members in every state, NELA is the country's largest professional organization exclusively comprised of lawyers who represent individual employees in employment discrimination cases and other employment-related matters. NELA and our 69 state and local affiliates have more than 4,000 members across our nation. Our members are private civil

rights lawyers whose clients suffer the practical realities of an insufficient, inconsistent minimum wage.

The Raise the Wage Act is long-overdue. If passed, it will address the reality of stagnated wages and income inequality brought about, in part, by an outdated federal minimum wage that has not been raised in ten years. The current federal minimum wage of \$7.25/hr is worth 17% less than it was ten years ago. For a full-time, year-round minimum wage worker, this represents a loss of over \$3,000 in annual earnings. If passed, this much-needed bill would raise the federal minimum wage to \$8.55 this year and increase it over the next five years until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2024. The Raise the Wage Act also includes common sense language to adjust the minimum wage each year after 2024. It would phase out the subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has been frozen at a meager \$2.13 since 1991, and sunset the ability of employers to pay a subminimum wage to people with disabilities and workers under the age of twenty.

According to a recent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) Report, gradually raising the federal minimum wage will lift pay for nearly 27.3 million workers by 2024 and reduce the number of people living in poverty by 1.3 million. Nearly half of the 1.3 million people who would be raised out of poverty are children under the age of eighteen. The CBO study concurs that the benefits of this legislation outweigh its costs, and that passage of the bill will leave low-wage workers and their families far better off than they are now. This bill will bolster the middle class all across the country. Many workers in sectors that are considered skilled, such as early childhood education and health care, struggle to survive on \$15 per hour. Passage of a clean bill will lift those across the bottom of the workforce.

Tens of millions of workers in America currently cannot afford basic living expenses for themselves and the families they support. These same workers stock our grocery stores, fulfill our online purchases, clean offices and homes, and perform thousands of other jobs that make every aspect of the lives of higher wage earners function. These workers are your constituents, and they deserve a raise. We urge you to pass the Raise the Wage Act now.

Sincerely,

TERRY O'NEILL,
Executive Director.

RECOGNIZING LYNETTE LACKEY

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Lynette Lackey for her thirty-five years of dedicated service to the federal government and to the North Texas veterans community.

Mrs. Lackey began her career with the United States Army Corps of Engineers at Lake Texoma prior to transferring to the Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center in Bonham, Texas, where she worked in various administrative positions. Eventually, Lynette would be assigned as the Congressional Liaison for the VA North Texas Health Care System, the second largest VA health care system in the country. As the assigned Congressional Liaison for the fourteen Congressional offices in the system, Lynette was responsible for responding to inquiries from a served population of over 134,000 veterans, over thirty-eight Texas counties and two counties in southern Oklahoma.

Lynette is often lauded throughout the region for her efforts to assist veterans, their families, and Congressional staff in navigating the often-complicated VA healthcare system. Mrs. Lackey consistently strives to solve the most complex veteran issues, always with the focus of providing the best possible outcomes for those she serves. Lynette has justifiably earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues in the community.

Now as Mrs. Lackey prepares to enjoy her well-deserved retirement, she looks forward to spending more time with her husband of thirty-eight years, Dean, and her children, Jack and Aubrun, and Cole and Leslie. Lynette also anticipates welcoming her first grandchild this fall, taking on the title of "Lolly" and becoming part of the "Lolly and Pop" duo of love and support surely to surround their newest addition.

The North Texas veteran's community and all those who have had the honor of working with her over the past twenty-two years, thank Mrs. Lynette Lackey for her steadfast service and wish her the best in her retirement.